

35p

DAILY STAR

THE NEWS
THE GOSS
THE PICS
THE SPORT

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2005

SIMPLY THE BEST
7 DAYS A WEEK



BESTIE
The final
whistle

Pages 6,7 & STARSPORT

Cannon & Brawl



COMICS
CAUSE BIG
RUMBLE IN
THE JUNGLE

Pages 4 & 5

Myleene

The raps
come off

Page 27



Pictures: CELEBRITYPICTURES.CO.UK

SORRY SIMON ON HIS KNEES



CLUSIVE



Louis back as Cowell cracks up

X FACTOR quitter Louis Walsh made a dramatic U-turn last night and said he WILL be back on the show tomorrow. The Irish music mogul finally bowed to pressure from grovelling fellow judge Simon Cowell, who offered to go down on his knees as he begged him to return.

Full story: Page 11



NOBBY'S

LAST CHANCE TO WIN A £17,000 HONDA

Premium rate phoneline

PAGES
64 & 65



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CAMMIE IN BOOZE ROW

TORIES mustn't preach to people who like to go out for a tippie, leadership frontrunner David Cameron insisted last night.

He had a telly spat with rival David Davis - who opposed the new 24-hour licensing laws during a debate on Sky TV.

"We mustn't make everyone who wants to go out and have a drink on a Friday or Saturday night sound like a criminal," blasted Mr Cameron, 39.

Mr Davis, 56, retorted: "That doesn't help people who have got somebody vomiting in their front drive."

Binge Alert: Page 13



TOYS BOY: Gordon Brown

Blair Browned off - again

by MACER HALL

GORDON Brown has ripped up Tony Blair's plan to force workers to stay in their jobs until they're 67.

The grumpy Chancellor indicated yesterday that he will scupper new proposals to deal with the looming pensions crisis.

His veto, a dramatic show of the muscle he now wields in Downing Street, is a brutal snub to Blair.

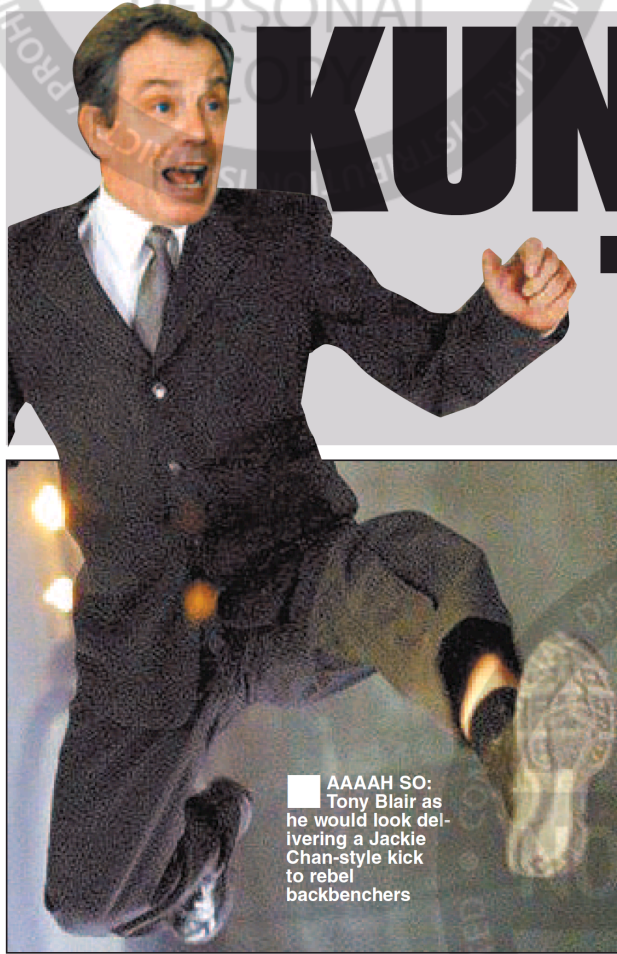
And last night the Tories accused Mr Brown of "throwing his toys out of the pram".

Mr Blair backs calls in next

week's report from ex-business chief Lord Turner to raise the retirement age from 65 to 67, in return for raising the weekly state pension from £80 to £109.

But Mr Brown is already insisting the country can't afford it.

Shadow Chancellor George Osborne said: "Why has Brown thrown his toys out of the pram?"



AAAAH SO: Tony Blair as he would look delivering a Jackie Chan-style kick to rebel backbenchers

KUNG-FU TONY

PM's a big Chan fan, says Cherie

TONY Blair is Kung-Fu crazy and gets his kicks watching Jackie Chan movies, his wife Cherie revealed last night.

He is addicted to watching the star's all-action flicks, including Rush Hour and Around The World In 80 Days.

And Downing Street insiders reckon Mr Blair, 52, dreams of trying out a few martial arts moves on rivals - including the Chancellor Gordon Brown.

Cherie, 51, let her husband's secret slip while presenting Chan, also 51, with an award for his charity work.

She told him: "I have to say the Prime Minister is a bit of a fan. He tells me that Rush Hour is his favourite. I liked Around The World In 80 Days myself."

But her meeting with the star turned into an episode of slapstick worthy of any Chan film.

She was over an hour late for the reception at the Radisson Hotel in London's Mayfair held by The Next Step Foundation.

And in her excitement she

by MACER HALL
Political Editor

hugged Chan, ripping a garland of flowers he was wearing and leaving petals all over the floor.

Then his award snapped in half and fell to the ground.

Cherie gushed: "There are so many people who can play heroes but not so many who can say they are an all-round good guy."

But Chan admitted he wouldn't fancy Mr Blair's job.

He said: "I saw him in the House of Commons, and all that talking - I tell you, I don't want to be Prime Minister."

Punch
"Everybody knows I can hit, I can punch and I can jump but the worst thing is

having to make this speech."

Mr Blair has previously talked about his love of playing the electric guitar, watching football on TV and listening to rock music.

But he has kept quiet about his passion for Kung Fu films.

And his aides refused to reveal whether he had practised any martial arts moves in No.10.

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HERO: Cherie greets Jackie

THE DAILY STAR SAYS Blair-faced cheek

CHERIE Blair can't step out of No.10 without embarrassing herself.

"You are looking so well put together," she gushed at martial arts star Jackie Chan. She also said "the Prime Minister is a bit of a

fan". Sorry, Cherie, we're not buying this drivel.

We can't imagine Tony spends his nights watching Jackie's classics.

Cherie's gaffes range from words of support to suicide bombers to

singing a Beatles song on Chinese TV. She's taken financial advice from comedian Peter Foster and been accused of grabbing freebies galore.

Tony must wish she would just stay indoors.

LOTTO DAILY PLAY
THURSDAY, NOV 24

1 3 4 5 13 14 22
No tickets matched all 7 balls for the £30,000 jackpot

SATURDAY LOTTO
NOVEMBER 19

4 9 10 19 24 37 28

One ticket won the £4.5m jackpot
EXTRA: 10, 23, 33, 41, 45, 47 Tball: 1, 3, 6, 18, 29 (7b 9)
No Extra winners of £3.2m jackpot. No Tball winner.

WEDNESDAY LOTTO
NOVEMBER 23

14 33 36 39 42 46 13

No winner of estimated £2.7million Lotto jackpot.
Extra: 3, 6, 11, 34, 45, 46 Tball: 1, 7, 13, 22, 25 (7b 8)
No winners of £3.3m Extra jackpot. 1 £250k Tball winner

EURO MILLIONS

FRIDAY, NOV 18

17, 18, 25, 34, 48
Lucky Star Numbers 2, 3

No UK winners of the £10.3m jackpot

UK SAFETY DRIVE

FOREIGN workers are being urged to take up a free driving course in a bid to cut accidents on rural roads, traffic police have revealed.

The scheme, pioneered in Lincolnshire is designed to help drivers new to British roads - and foreign nationals in particular are being targeted, after a series of fatal crashes involving migrants.

Police spokesman Dick Holmes said: "The course allows drivers unfamiliar with the roads, to get used to the tricky conditions that can cause accidents."

Leaflets will be sent to firms employing foreigners.

Happy Birthday

Lib Dem leader Charles Kennedy is 46 today. We'll drink to that!



Thought for the day...

If practice makes perfect and no one's perfect, why practice?

INSIDE TODAY

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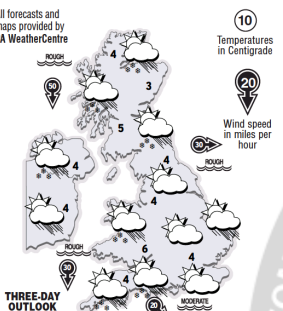
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INFO STATION

TODAY: South-west England, Wales and Northern Ireland will have wintry showers and snow on the hills. The rest of England will be mainly dry and sunny. Scotland will have gales and heavy snow showers followed by rain.

OUTLOOK: Tomorrow, Scotland will be chilly with rain and hill snow. England, Wales and Northern Ireland will have showery rain. On Sunday, showers will be wintry in the North.

All forecasts and maps provided by
PA WeatherCentre



THREE-DAY OUTLOOK

Saturday Showers

Sunday Sleet

Monday Showers

POUND ABROAD

Australia2.21 dollars
Canada1.93 dollars
Cyprus0.79 pounds
Czech Republic39.11 korunas
Mexico16.29 pesos
South Africa10.60 rand
Thailand63.27 baht
Turkey2.21 new lira
United States1.64 dollars

EURO

Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Holland, Portugal, Spain € 1.39

ABROAD

Alicante	sunny	14c (57f)	Moscow	snow	-3c (27f)
Corfu	rain	13c (55f)	New York	sunny	1c (34f)
Dublin	showers	8c (46f)	Nice	sunny	12c (54f)
L.Angels	fair	22c (72f)	Paris	cloudy	6c (43f)
Majorca	fair	12c (54f)	Rhodes	cloudy	17c (63f)
Miami	sunny	16c (61f)	Rome	sunny	8c (46f)
			Tenerife	cloudy	22c (72f)

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NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING

Recycled paper made up 63.5% of the raw material for UK newspapers in 2000

Picture: CELEBRITYPICTURES.CO.UK



Now YOU can have Jordan's baubles

★ GLAMOUR girl Kate Price is putting on the glitz this Christmas with a range of fun jewellery – based on her massive boobs.

She is due to rake in the cash when the new bling line goes on sale next week in time for the Christmas rush.

★ As well as her bra-busting 32FF chest Kate – aka Jordan, 27 – has used her saucy knickers, sexy corsets and foxy high heels for inspiration. Kate's range – The

■ by MARIANNA PARTASIDES

Jordan Collection – for Argos includes boob-shaped earrings, a belly-ring based on a bustier, and a charm bracelet with knicker pendants.

★ Kate said the silver-plated range is the result of her love for singer Peter Andre, 32, who she married in September after they fell for each other on I'm A Celeb two years ago.

There's even a £12.99 copycat of the £30,000 engagement ring he gave her. Instead of diamonds it features pink and white crystals.

★ The seven-piece collection is available from Wednesday. An Argos spokeswoman said: "We're delighted Jordan's first jewellery range is exclusive to Argos."

"We're thrilled with them and expect them to be big sellers in the run-up to Christmas."

★ Next year Kate is releasing a fitness video, a book and has plans for her own range of undies.

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DAILY
STAR

We're the official paper for

I'M A CELEBRITY
GET ME OUT OF HERE!ROCK OFF
TOMMY!Comic duo fly in to a
spat with The Duke

COMEDY duo Cannon and Ball exploded onto I'm A Celebrity with a bang, by upsetting show fave David Dickinson.

They were sent into the Aussie outback as late arrivals to stir things up in camp. And after boasting: "We're here to conquer the jungle – and win!" they caused a right old rumble with the Bargain Hunt star. He was far from Bobby dazzled



EXCLUSIVE

from PETER DYKE
in Australia

and snapped: "The show started before you got here – we've got a good group here already."

Cannon and Ball – real names Tommy Derbyshire, 67, and Robert Harper, 61 – aim to ruffle a few feathers and the Daily Star exclusively revealed two months ago

that they had signed up for the series. They were flown out to Australia in secrecy two days ago. Yesterday they were helicoptered into the jungle.

Chopper

Sid Owen, 33, and Jenny Frost, 27, "discovered" them as they went to look for the daily treasure chest. As the chopper touched down and Cannon and Ball popped out, former EastEnders Sid shrieked: "Oh my god! I don't believe it."

Both comics admitted they are nervous at coming in so late. Tommy said: "It will be interesting to see how they react to us, but it wasn't our idea. Two more blokes coming in will upset the whole appeart."

Bobby added: "We may kick off in there. We're nice blokes but we've got a few surprises up our sleeves."

David Dickinson watched from a distance, pulled a face and told the two born-again Christians: "This is a tough show – you're gonna lose some weight."

To try to lighten the mood, Bobby quipped: "You could be a bit more positive."

Then he declared: "Rock on Tommy" and pinged his trademark red braces.

peter.dyke@dailystar.co.uk

BACK ON THE BOX. Cannon and Ball arrive for some jungle tucker and upset the Duke, inset



Jungle grapevine

SEX-STARVED Sheree and Jilly have got the hots for the hunky jungle security guards because they think they smell nice. Smitten Sheree, 30, cooed: "You can smell the soap on them and their clean clothes." And Jilly is using her nose for wine to sniff out a bloke.

BARGAIN Hunt star David, 64, and his mate Sid, 33, both admitted they had spent time behind bars. The Duke was locked up for fraud in the 1950s and Sid was jailed while on his hols in Tenerife as a youngster.

POOR Atomic Kitten babe Jenny had her DIY fly-swatter, made from two twigs and a piece of

card, confiscated after she bashed some pesky march flies and claimed she was Rambo.

BOSSY Carol has branded the jungle gang a bunch of dimwits. She spluttered: "I haven't had a decent intellectual conversation with any of them since I got here."

BORED Jimmy decided to make Christmas come early in the camp by building a snowman out of rocks for the camp. The merry Mormon christened him Rock Man.

STARVING Kimberley has been biting her pillow while she snoozes in her bed – because she

has been dreaming about food. Sweet dreams perhaps?

RESTAURANT owner Sid says his gaff in France is cheap as chips – because he only charges around £15 for a meal.

EX-NEIGHBOURS star Kimberley said she would never go back to the Aussie soap and added: "Not everyone liked each other. There were a few people there I didn't get on with."

EMMERDALE beauty Sheree revealed that she will be back on our screens next year in a new spin-off series from the ITV hit Heartbeat.

Kim set to walk

DOWNCAST Kimberley Davies is at the end of her tether and threatening to QUIT.

As the rain poured, the 32-year-old ex-Neighbours beauty was struggling to hold back her tears.

"When seven days is up I'm out of here," she muttered. "You're going to walk?" asked Jilly.

"Yep," said Kim. "The way I feel now, yep."

Blonde Kimberley would be the second soap celeb to make her exit from the new show.

Ex-EastEnders Elaine Loran, 39, was forced to quit by bosses after collapsing within hours of joining the camp.



**DAILY
STAR****We're the official paper for****I'M A CELEBRITY
GO ME OUT OF HERE!****SNAKE-OMETER**

1) **CAROL THATCHER**
I bet she didn't eat this kind of grub when she dined with mummy at No 10. Her Bushtucker success will help her campaign to win.



2) **JILLY GOOLDEN**
Wine lover showed she had balls by eating a marsupial's plonker. Shame she hasn't got some nice vino to wash it down.

3) **SID OWEN**
Everybody's pal in camp, he is there for the long haul.



4) **SHEREE MURPHY**
She's got the hots for a security guard - but she won't score with him because she's got husband Harry Kewell back home.

5) **JIMMY OSMOND**
Cheered up the camp by making a snowman out of rocks. Awesome.



6) **TOMMY CANNON (NEW ENTRY)**
Made a great start to his time in the jungle by making the others laugh.

7) **JENNY FROST**
Flirting with Bobby Ball shows she must be getting bored. Perhaps it's time she did a Bushtucker Trial?



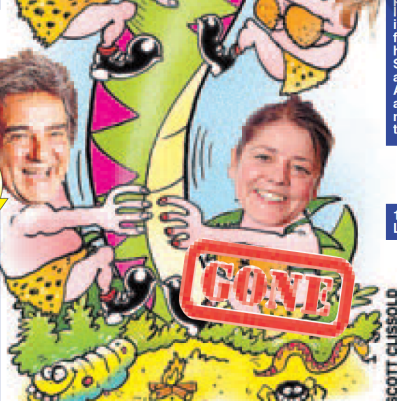
8) **BOBBY BALL (NEW ENTRY)**
His Rock On Tommy catchphrase could get a bit tiresome. If he carries on using it every 20 minutes fans will tell him to rock off.

9) **ANTONY COSTA**
Could be feeling Blue away from his girlfriend Adele but he needs to get involved more.



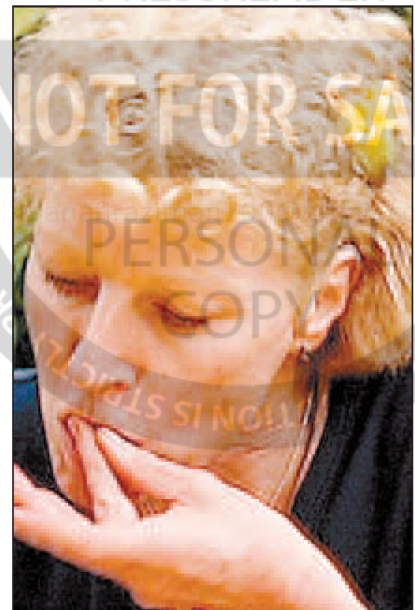
10) **KIMBERLEY DAVIES**
That moody pout doesn't look sexy if it's on her face 24 hours a day. She's come across as an Aussie actress who needs to toughen up.

11) **DAVID DICKINSON**
Chips gave Cannon & Ball a grilling when they came in camp. Needs to chill out a bit. **TAN FACTOR** - only 4 (blood orange) 'cos it's raining.



12) **ELAINE LORDAN**

SCOTT CLISSOLD



TRIAL: Very unpleasant

BALL-ACHE: Carol likes the look of her dish but not the taste, while Jilly's not so sure

Brave Carol's got some balls

I'M A Celebrity bossy boots Carol Thatcher proved she had balls by eating kangaroo testicles for her Bushtucker Trial.

TV foodie Jilly Goolden wasn't spared the nightmare either and was forced to munch on a wallaby's willy.

The pair showed they could stomach the challenge as they managed to win eight stars out of a possible nine.

Other dishes savoured by brave Carol, 52, and Jilly, 48, were green ants and cheese fruit.

As Jilly tucked into the ants she said: "Mmmmm.

Lovely. They bite. They're delicious. Very good and zesty. One's just bitten my tongue."

The pair then ate cockroaches and grasshoppers, before moving on to witchy grubs and mealworms.

Carol then selected a fish eye. Finding it harder than she imagined she joked it must be wearing contact lenses.

But Jilly couldn't face the final meal - a rat's tail. At the end she asked for a toothpick, saying: "I don't think I can live with kangaroo penis in my teeth all day."

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Family and friends keep vigil at dying football legend's



FINAL HOURS: Football genius George Best

BYE BYE BESTIE..

■ by GARY NICKS and STEPHEN RIGLEY
DEVASTATED family and friends said goodbye to football legend George Best last night after tearful doctors revealed all hope was gone.

Medics warned that severe medical complications mean the playboy soccer icon was peacefully losing his fight for life and had just hours left.

Choking back tears, his loyal doctor Prof Roger Williams said the desperately ill alcoholic "could die at any time".

Heartbroken Prof Williams admitted: "I'm afraid Mr Best is coming to the end of the long road of his ill health. I have to tell you that his hours are numbered now."

Family and friends were keeping a vigil at London's private Cromwell Hospital as Best lay unconscious and attached to a ventilator.

Medics said that former football genius Best, 59, was not in any pain.

His former Manchester United team-mates Denis Law, 65, and Sir Bobby Charlton, 68, dashed to the clinic yesterday to say their final farewells. They played alongside Best in the great United team of the Sixties.

Best's son Calum, 24, was also at his father's side along with the former Northern Ireland international's dad Dickie, 87, brother Ian, 39, and sisters Carol, 58, Barbara, 53, and twins Julie and Grace, both 42.

The Old Trafford legend's girlfriend Ros Hollidge, 37, has also been there along with Best's agent and lifelong friend Phil Hughes, 45.

Final

Another close friend, Portsmouth FC chief Milan Mandaric, visited the hospital.

Prof Williams broke the news to the family that it was useless to hold out any more hope for Best, who is on a life support machine.

He said: "We have all been sitting down together. It's very upsetting for everybody, especially the family."

"They understand everything. Calum is there, everybody is there and they accept what's going to happen."

The star – an idol to football fans around the world – entered his final hours after irreversible complications took hold overnight on Wednesday. He has been in intensive care for a week with a severe lung infection and failing kidneys.

But internal bleeding suddenly kicked in and worsened, then spread to his lungs.

Prof Williams said Best's frail body could no longer fight the infections, leaving him facing imminent multi-organ failure.

The family would not have to face the agonising decision to switch off his life support machine because Best's condition meant he would just ebb away naturally.

Prof Williams said: "I will be very surprised if he survives another 24 hours."

"He's not in any pain but he's got complications in his lungs which we are not able to reverse."

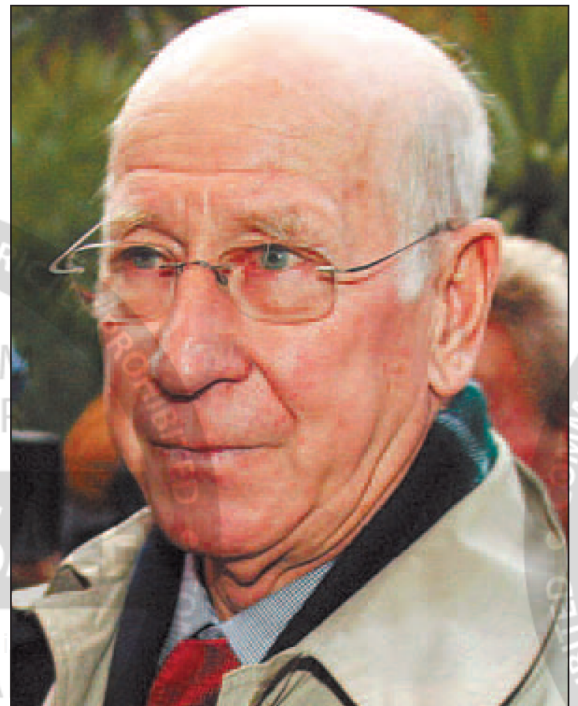
Yesterday Mandaric, 64, who is also Calum's godfather, said: "The family are all there and it's very hard for them right now."

"We are very great friends. He has great family. Calum loves his dad. They are great people."

"George is always there for me and I will be there for George." Best's ex-wife Alex, 33 has not paid a visit to the hospital. It is understood the



SHATTERED: Pal Denis Law at the hospital yesterday



UNITED IN SORROW: Sir Bobby Charlton arrives to say farewell

I'm A Celebrity star had been prepared to make an emotional visit to Best, but the family advised her to stay away.

Speaking outside her home in Lower Kingswood, Surrey, she said: "Touch wood, I will still get to see him."

It also emerged yesterday that in one of his final acts Best, who controversially had an liver transplant three years ago, pledged to donate his organs to others.

The hellraiser wants to help people waiting for a transplant as a thank you for the numerous second chances he has been given throughout his life.

Phil Hughes confirmed earlier this month that the star had carried a donor card for some years. And his liver could go to someone else after his death, medics said last night.

John Oliver, a spokesman for UK Transplant, said: "We have a real shortage of organs to transplant in this country so we have to consider all available options."

"Generally there are only two illnesses, HIV and CJD, which prevent a person being considered as a donor." As for boozy Best's liver, Mr

Oliver said: "There is no automatic reason why an organ could not be reconsidered for a second transplant."

"Years of alcohol abuse would have ravaged some of the organs but we would make a decision on each one."

"If this is what someone wants we will consider their organs."

"We have had situations where someone who has been waiting will certainly die if a transplant is not given so we are forced to consider using organs which might not be totally suitable."

Drastic

"We are better trying something than nothing at all."

Best was first admitted to the Cromwell Hospital on October 1 with flu-like symptoms.

But his condition soon went downhill and he developed a kidney infection.

That spread to his bowel and Best was rushed into intensive care.

He spent more than a month fighting for life and his family were twice told to prepare for the worst. Then a breakthrough emerged two weeks

ago and it looked like he might fight back. He was moved to a normal ward and appeared to be gradually showing positive signs.

But 10 days ago the lung infection developed and he was rushed back into intensive care for the last time.

He appeared to show some slight improvement on Tuesday, with Prof Williams remaining upbeat.

But the drastic complications yesterday finally put an end to all hope.

Best, the original playboy of the footballing world, has spent a lifetime with a heavy drinking problem.

His boozing almost killed him before the 2002 liver transplant gave him another chance at life.

Best famously vowed never to touch a drop of alcohol after the life-saving operation.

But his addiction saw him eventually cave in again and he hit the bottle.

Sources close to the family have said Best's funeral is likely to take place in his home city of Belfast.

gary.nicks@dailystar.co.uk

bedside as tearful doctor tells them all hope has gone



Pictures: HUMPHREY NEMAR and ROY LETKEY



ANXIOUS: Best's son Calum at the hospital and ex-wife Alex at her Surrey home yesterday. Inset, a tearful Prof Roger Williams delivers the bad news



Picture: LOUIS WOOD

COLD ENOUGH TO GET A WEE WILLY WINKY

■ by PAUL MALLEY

BRITAIN shivered yesterday as the big freeze sent temperatures plunging to -10C.

But at least something was hotting up... sales of super warm Wee Willy Winky-style nightshirts.

An Arctic blast brought chaos to northern Scotland, where the

...the nightshirt, that is

wind chill factor made it -10C in places.

Forecasters say this could be the coldest British winter in more than 40 years with the freeze lasting three months.

And it has already sent sales

of old-fashioned nightshirts through the roof.

Geoff Kimpton, marketing director of mail order firm Chums, said: "They are flying off the shelves compared to this time last year and the cold

weather must be accounting for much of that growth."

Experts last night warned Britain to brace itself for heavy snow as the freeze headed south.

There's already been an

avalanche of bets on a white Christmas.

Coral has slashed its odds of London seeing snow to 7-2 from 5-1.

Up to 10cm of snow is expected across south west England today. And 12.7cm is set to fall in parts of Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales.

Motorists have been advised not to travel if possible.

paul.malley@dailystar.co.uk



GUNNED DOWN: Sharon

Wanted – dead or alive

■ by JERRY LAWTON

POLICE fear the hunt for policewoman Sharon Beshenivsky's killers could end in a bloodbath.

A fast response team of armed officers was last night on stand-by to make the arrests as soon as the prime suspects – a pair of Somali gangster brothers – have been located.

But detectives fear the 38-year-old PC's killers know they face "life means life" jail sentences – and may decide to go out in a blaze of glory by triggering a bloody shoot-out.

Foil

The robbery gang came out "shooting like cow-boys" when Sharon and her partner PC Teresa

Milburn, 37, tried to foil their raid on a Bradford travel agency. Sharon died and Teresa was wounded as she dashed to try to help her.

A senior police source told the Daily Star: "These men will be apprehended dead or alive."

ULTIMATE CHRISTMAS PREZZIES

Pages 46&47

Kop ace blasted

LIVERPOOL ace Steve Finnan was driving at nearly twice the speed limit when he hit a pensioner, an inquest heard yesterday.

He was doing 58mph in a 30mph zone in his Range Rover when he hit Harry Nelson, 81, in West Derby, Liverpool, in January.

Mr Nelson died in hospital five weeks later of pneumonia.

Liverpool Coroner Andre Rebello said yesterday he was unable to record a verdict on cause of death.

But he criticised Finnan, 28, for "failing to give full evidence".

'BIG C' VICTORY

FEWER middle-aged Brits are dying from cancer as early detection and treatment improve, according to Britain Against Cancer.



WARM AS TOAST: Wee Willy Winky nightshirts are flying off the shelves. Below, Lee and Sarah Milne have fun in the snow near Aviemore, Scotland, yesterday



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Superstar and his fella choose low-key ceremony

ELTON WEDDING: THE 1ST QUIET DAY HE'S EVER HAD



Picture: RICHARD YOUNG / REX FEATURES



■ by NIGEL PAULEY
SIR Elton John and partner David Furnish will marry in a private ceremony with only their parents as witnesses.

The gay couple's big day next month was expected to be a flamboyant star-studded event.

But they have decided to make it a quiet family affair - although in the evening they plan to party with celeb pals such as the Beckhams and Liz Hurley, 40.

Others on the guest list include Sting, 54, and wife Trudi, 50, Donatella Versace, 50, Ozzy and Sharon Osbourne, 56 and 53, and model Naomi Campbell, 35.

Sir Elton, once famous for his wild partying and drug binges, revealed: "The ceremony will be very private - a small family affair. Then in the evening there'll be a soiree which we have yet to work out.

"But the ceremony itself will be our parents and us. They'll be our witnesses. They've been so fantastic and so supportive. Out of respect for their support, we don't want to make a ballyhoo of the ceremony.

"There'll be a party somewhere, but the day will be very low-key and we'll take our parents to lunch afterwards. This is going to be an incredibly emotional day."

As the Daily Star's Goss girls revealed last week, the event is set for Windsor's Macdonald Castle Hotel on December 21.

First

Sir Elton, 58, and Canadian-born film-maker David, 42, have been together 12 years. They'll become one of the first same-sex couples to wed in the UK under the Civil Partnership Act.

David told Attitude magazine: "I've always considered myself committed to Elton and want to spend the rest of my life with him."

He added that they'll be soberly dressed for the nuptials: "Fancy dressing at a wedding just isn't a very good look. Elton hasn't given me an engagement ring, but I wear a special one he gave me 12 years ago."

England skipper David Beckham, 30, had been tipped as best man - but Sir Elton insisted: "I don't think it's the done thing to have a best man at a gay wedding. It's not like a formal marriage.

"But it gives long-term same-sex partners some protection. If one dies, whatever will be drawn up has to be recognised. I've seen so many die from Aids and then their partners get shifted out by the family and they end up with nothing. That isn't right."

Sir Elton wed Renate Blauel in 1984 but they divorced four years later. He said: "Even though I knew I was gay, I thought this woman was attractive and being married would cure me of everything wrong in my life."

Sir Elton, worth £185m, added: "Meeting David was the greatest thing to happen to me. We spend a lot of time apart and it's hard, but we make it work."

nigel.pauley@dailystar.co.uk



MUST-HAVE: Foetus

'Free IVF for gays'

■ by JAMES WICKHAM
GAY couples must be given free IVF treatment to help them have babies, according to the Government's fertility watchdog.

Clinics must treat them the same as "traditional" couples, the Human Fertilisation And Embryology Authority has ruled.

The group said there was "no evidence" to suggest that test tube babies born to gay couples faced difficulties.

Under the new Civil Partnership Act, brought in by the Government, it may now be illegal for clinics to refuse the £3,000-a-time treatment.

One in six heterosexual couples in the UK have trouble conceiving and many have complained in the past that they cannot get treatment on the NHS.



SUPPORT: Elt's mum Sheila

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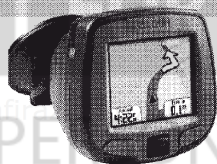
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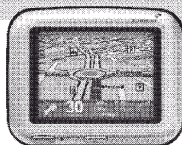
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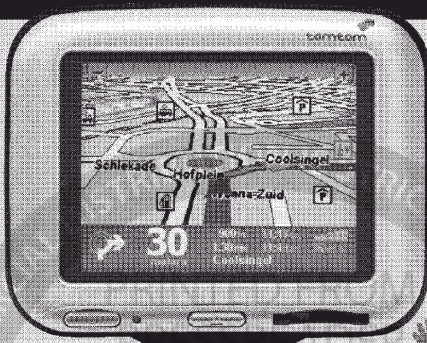
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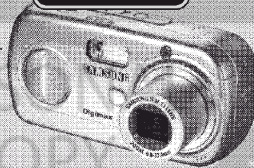
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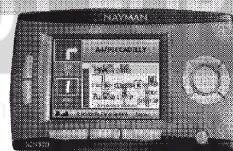
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I'M BACK SI ..NOW STOP CRAWLING!

EXCLUSIVE

by MARIANNA PARTASIDES
and NIGEL PAULEY

TEARFUL Louis Walsh yesterday promised he would be back on *The X Factor* tomorrow.

He made his U-turn after grovelling Simon Cowell begged him: "Please come back."

Simon, 46, bombarded Irishman Louis, 51, with FIVE text messages and issued a public apology in a bid to get him back on the judging panel in time for this weekend's show.

And even though Louis vowed never to return, he cracked after TV's "Mr Nasty" even offered to go down on his knees.

Louis had walked out of the ITV show on Monday after a furious bust-up with Simon.

But last night Louis said: "I'll probably go back. I've had an apolo-



COMEBACK: Louis caved in

gy from Simon. In fact, Simon has so far sent me five text messages begging me to come back to the show!"

Louis was speaking in Dublin to telly babe Jayne Middlemiss, 34, for a forthcoming edition of ITV1's music show *Orange Playlist*.

In the interview, due to be screened on December 7, he revealed he was furious over his treatment.

Louis said: "I did quit and I fully

intended not to go back. To be honest I was just so pissed off with everything that's happened recently. "It all started with the reaction to my decision to axe Maria Lawson, then Sharon drenched me and called me an idiot."

"The straw that broke the camel's back was when I saw Simon's comments the following Monday."

"Simon dissed my name and my managerial skills. I didn't want people to think that I'm not a competent manager - Westlife are where they are because of me."

Rival

Louis also took the chance to have a go back at Cowell, saying: "Simon is very vain. He wears platform shoes, has spray tans, wears make-up and dyes his hair. He also does press-ups before going on set."

If Louis had failed to show tomorrow, telly chiefs planned to turn him into the *EX Factor* by not bothering to replace him. Sources claimed no

mention would even have been made of his decision to quit and the show would have gone on as usual.

Show chiefs' attitude hardened after it was revealed Louis was lining up a new job as a pundit on a rival TV talent show.

He is set to be a judge on *Are You The Voice?* - due to be screened by ITV in the spring. This will allow wannabes to audition by singing down the phone.

One *X Factor* source insisted: "No one person is bigger than the show."

news@dailystar.co.uk

South are flying solo

★ JOURNEY South will release a Xmas single - even if they fail to win *The X Factor*.

Judge Simon Cowell, 46, has been so bowled over by the Pemberton brothers Carl, 24, and Andy, 29, that he has signed them for his Syco record label. And

bookmakers have already slashed the odds of the singing double act landing the Christmas No1 slot to a very favourable 7-1.

★ An ITV insider revealed: "Journey South have been topping the phone polls every week recently and Simon

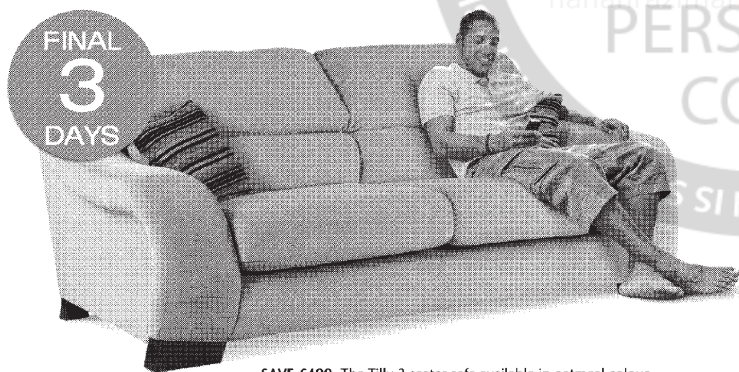
has been genuinely impressed by the brothers."

★ "He reckons they'll do very well indeed when the *X Factor* series finishes."

The eventual *X Factor* winner will release a single only four days before Christmas Day.

BROTHERS IN ARMS: Journey South duo Andy, left, and Carl give the thumbs-up. Win or lose *X Factor*, they've got Simon Cowell backing their Christmas single.

Picture: BIGPICTURES



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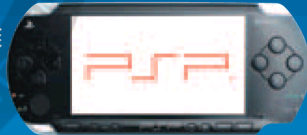
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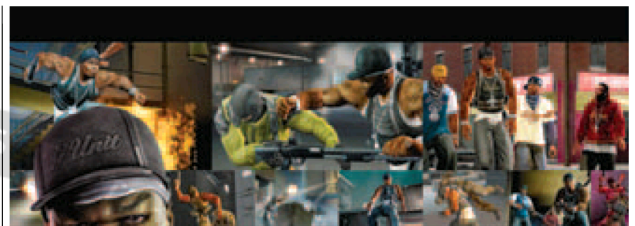
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CHEERS: Students in Big Market, Newcastle enjoy the start of 24-hour drinking while below girls in Newcastle city centre and Plymouth let the occasion go to their heads

BINGE ALERT



Cops set for drink frenzy

POLICE are bracing themselves for a surge in booze-fuelled violence over the weekend.

Following the introduction of the 24-hour drinking laws, officers and A&E units are on red alert.

Devon and Cornwall police are going undercover to try to tackle the expected rise in anti-social behaviour. They will dish out £80 fines to staff who serve drunk customers in a bid to curb binge-drinking.

A spokesman said: "We are concerned over the impact increased alcohol consumption may have on our streets late at night."

Louls

Only Bristol reported trouble just an hour after the 24-hour drinking laws started at midnight on Wednesday when three louls chucked a table through a window.

But a police spokesman said the number of drink-related incidents was average for a Wednesday night.

About 700 drinking sites, including 240 pubs, have applied for licences

by MAZ PARTASIDES

around the clock, according to the Government.

Police have been given new powers to crack down on alcohol-related violence as part of the new law.

In a phone poll of Daily Star readers, 64% believe drunken consent to sex is still consent.

The vote came after a judge ordered a jury to acquit a security guard of raping a student because she had been too drunk to remember if she had agreed to sex.

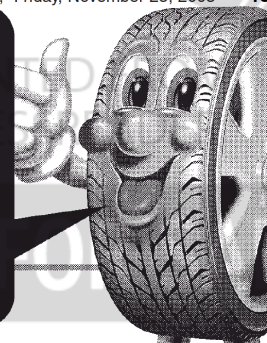
marianna.partasides@dailystar.co.uk

Court short

If you don't tell your life insurance firm exactly how much you drink, they could refuse to pay out when you die ... even if booze has nothing to do with it.

The warning comes after the High Court ruled in favour of Lincoln Assurance - who wouldn't meet a widow's claim on her heavy-drinking hubby after he died of an unrelated heart attack.

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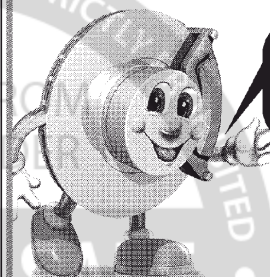
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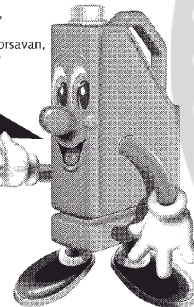
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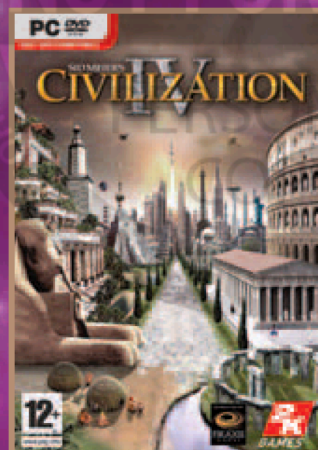
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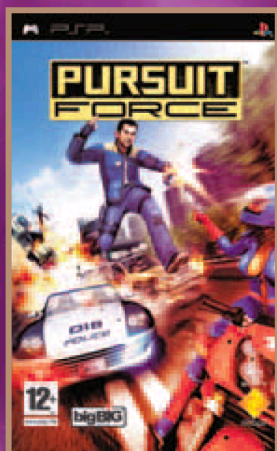
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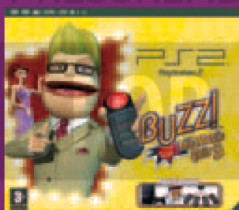
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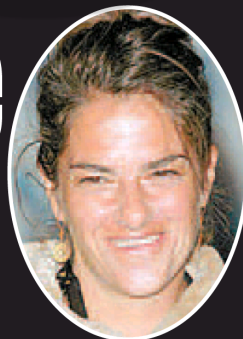
WILL HE BE A MOVIE IDOL?

LOVEABLE lisper **Will Young** has got the acting bug following his dazzling debut in new flick *Mrs Henderson Presents*. Will, 26, is desperate to pursue a serious acting career after promoting new album *Keep On* next summer. He said: "I really hope they do a film of *Queer As Folk* because I'd love to be a part of that. Where there's a Will there's a way..."

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WHAT RUBY SAID TO TRACEY: Have a shave and make your bed, you dirty cow



ACID-tongued Ruby Wax should expect a severed sheep's head on her pillow from **Damian Hirst** after attacking his fellow Brit Art pioneer **Tracey Emin**.

The brash comic, 52 (right) and the mono-browed artist, 42 (inset above) attended the premiere of saucy comedy *Mrs Henderson Presents* at the Vue Cinema, in London's Leicester Square.

But things turned nasty at the after party at Floridita Restaurant, when rowdy Ruby told the feisty concept artist: "Have a shave and make your f***ing bed, you dirty cow."

Loveable cockney **Bob Hoskins**, 62, who plays theatre impresario Vivian Van Damme in the movie, guffawed.

But Tracey was not amused and fumed, "She represents everything I hate about

Americans", before storming off. Pals of Tracey insisted she didn't give two hoots about the facial hair insult - but say she was fuming about Ruby's flip-pant comments about her notorious *My Bed* creation.

An insider said: "Tracey really warmed to Ruby in 2003, when they first met at **David Gest's** 50th birthday bash."

"But Ruby has really hurt her feelings and ruined her night."

Beard

"Tracey is used to people mocking her monobrow and beard. She compares herself to hairy-faced Mexican artist **Frida Kahlo**, anyway."

"But she was disgusted by Ruby's comments about her bed."

"It's surrounded by the detritus of her life - condoms, fags and dirty underwear. But it represents her sexual encounters, pain and illnesses in a way which captures the public's imagination. That's why it was nominated for the 1997 Turner Prize."

But Ruby's pal **Martin Sherman**, who directed her stage show, *Ruby Wax Live* and wrote the *Mrs Henderson Presents* script, hit back: "Ruby says what she thinks and that's why we all love her."

"She used to be a morgue beautician, so perhaps she could make amends by setting the tweezers on Tracey."

Emin would probably just tell her to pluck off...

HUSH HUSH

WHICH soap star has been stealing shoes worn by his sexy co-stars from the prop department, because he's a closet foot fetishist?

But the actor is now feeling guilty because the female cast members have been blamed for the disappearing footwear.

So he is gradually trying to return his vast collection. The actresses wouldn't want to wear them again if they knew what he'd been doing to them.

SPOTTED

IN London: **Sharleen Spiteri** wiping dog poo off her stilettos outside Park Lane Hotel; **Tranny Kemal Shahin** showing off his dodgy new hair extensions at Eve nightclub; **Debbie Harry** having her blonde locks pruned at Tony & Guy, Regent Street; **Pete Tong** knocking over a tray of canapes at The Cuckoo Club; **Jennifer Ellison** splashing out on a leopard print coat at Top Shop, Oxford St; **James Bourne** strutting his stuff at Umbaba nightclub.



Picture: DAVE BENNETT



Picture: BIGPICTURES

SNAP A CELEB

SPOTTED a celeb behaving badly? Send your phone pics to us on 07843 500911 or e-mail them to thegoss@dailystar.co.uk. If your pic gives us a great story we'll give you £200. Pics sent by text cost £1 plus usual network charges, e-mailed pics are free.

QUICKIE.. QUICKIE.. QUICKIE..

TRANSVESTITE artist **Grayson Perry** wants to play a lay-dee in *Little Britain*. The Turner Prize winner, 45, said: "I want people to start laughing at trannies like me." You don't need a comedy cameo role to make us laugh at you, Gray...

THEATRE luvvie **Charles Dance**, 59, is convinced the US government has secretly bred primate hybrids, like in his 80s TV hit *First Born*. He said: "It wouldn't surprise me if they were hiding monkey boys." Had a good look at **George Bush** lately Charles?

HAVE YOU GOT SOME JUICY GOSSIP FOR US?